ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Health of the West Kesteven Rural District

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

J. DEAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

AND

T. W. MAWER,

Acting Sanitary Inspector, etc.

1942

Grantham :
Palmer & Son, Printers and Stationers, 2, Vine Street,

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

J. DEAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.,
also Water Engineer, Surveyor, and
Petroleum Inspector.

Acting Sanitary Inspector :

T. W. MAWER.

Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.

D. A. FOSTER.

Junior Assistant :

A. R. HOLMES (Prisoner of War).

Clerks :

R. P. COX (on Active Service).
S. J. SIMMS.
Miss J. L. M. SHORE.

VINE HOUSE,
GRANTHAM.
October, 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a short account of the health conditions of the Rural District for the year 1942. Many details, population figures, and others are excluded from the report at the direction of the Ministry of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate	18·4	per 1,000	per annum
Average for England and Wales	15 8	,,	,,
Death Rate	12·39	,,	,,
Average for England and Wales	11·6	,,	,,
Infantile Death Rate... —	41·2	,,	,,
Average for England and Wales	49·0	,,	,,

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	11
Diphtheria	none
Puerperal Fever	4
Pneumonia	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2
Measles	19
Whooping Cough	12

This is a satisfactory list. It will be seen that there were no notifications of Diphtheria during the year. The immunisation treatment for this disease has been effectively carried out by the resident general practitioners, and it is considered that 80% of children of school age, and 70% of younger children have been immunised at the date August, 1943, when this report is written.

Four of the eleven cases of Scarlet Fever were sent to Grantham Isolation Hospital. Both cases of cerebro-spinal fever received hospital treatment, one which proved fatal, being found to be due to another form of meningitis.

All the cases of puerperal pyrexia received hospital treatment, and all recovered.

Scabies which has been prevalent throughout the county did not spare this area, and 53 cases (32 children and 21 adults) had treatment at the Clinic at Grantham, whilst a considerable number of adults were treated at an industrial area in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were no notifications during the year, It is probable that a few cases did occur, but that the information was not sent to your M.O.H., and a general tightening up of notifications which has been introduced during ihe last few months will, it is hoped, ensure that this will not happen in future.

One death from pulmonary tuberculosis and two from non-pulmonary disease occurred during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	1	2	nil

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
19 WATERGATE;
GRANTHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of the West Kesteven Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present the Annual Report of work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1942.

The ever-increasing number of emergency duties have been carried out during the year in addition to the normal routine work of the Public Health and Surveyor's Department.

Although the third year of the War has had a disturbing influence on the work of the Department due to the continued absence of two members of the staff on War service, no qualified assistant being available and extra duties including the salvage organisation, Civil Defence and other similar work, and the control of fuel supply, every endeavour has been made to carry out the routine sanitary work.

We must state that without the assistance rendered by the Clerk of the Council, the help and guidance given by each individual member of the Council, and the co-operation readily given by other Departments, and the diligent way in which the staff of the Department have carried out their duties, it would at times have been almost impossible to cope with the volume of work.

It will be appreciated that the report must again be of a somewhat brief nature for many reasons, and it will not be uniil the conclusion of hostilities that a complete report can be presented of the war period.

We are, Sir. Mesdames and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

J. DEAN,

T. W. MAWER (since Nov. 16th, 1942),

Sanitary Inspectors, Surveyors and Water Engineers

November, 1943.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections carried out during the year were 1,465 details of which are appended in the following table:—

Dwelling Houses inspected under the Housing Regulations 1925 ...	11
Inspections for Housing Defects	251
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress (including re-conditioning of houses under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926) ...	121
Moveable Dwellings	3
New Buildings (Supervision under the Building Bye-Laws) ...	10
Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	12
Slaughter-houses and Foodshops	8
Knackers' Yards	1
Cowsheds and Dairies...	52
Milk Samples for Analysis	9
Water Supplies	218
Samples of Water taken for Analysis...	36
Overcrowding, inspections and investigations...	—
Council House Repairs, routine inspection and supervision ...	256
Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal Sewer Dykes, supervision and cleansing }	95
Number of Drains inspected	26
Number of Drains tested	11
Scavenging	13
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	8
Verminous Premises and Disinfestations	18
Petroleum Stores	8
Rat Destruction	8
Salvage	156
Air Raid Shelters	4
Air Raid Precautions...	23
Fire Service	4
Mortuaries	19
Stables and Piggeries	1
Repair of War Damage	12
Food Decontamination	3
Iron Railings Survey	15
Fire Guard	26
Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.	27
Total	1,465

NOTICES SERVED.

Eight Intimation Notices or letters were sent, dealing with 11 premises.

HOUSING, 1942.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:

(1) *(a)* Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	24
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	43
(2) *(a)* Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	1
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	11

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied after service of formal notices	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV. Overcrowding. (1936 Survey).

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 23

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 23

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 166

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report Nil

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The work during 1942 has almost entirely consisted of the abatement of nuisances and the execution of essential repairs so as to maintain a reasonable standard of housing.

WATER SUPPLY.

Constant attention has been paid to the maintenance of the Water Supplies in the various Parishes. samples of water from the public supplies have been submitted for analysis and the Analyst's report proved that the supplies were bacteriologically pure. The temporary chlorination plant installed in connection with one of the village supplies is still in operation, although as previously reported it cannot be regarded as satisfactory for permanent use as the rate of insertion of the chlorine cannot be regulated accurately to the supply required. The water is therefore only at times bacteriologically pure and the public are advised to boil the water before use.

The water in some of the Parishes had to be controlled during the summer months in order to maintain an adequate supply.

The contract for carting water to houses in three Parishes was continued, water being carted as in previous years on every day except Sunday. This system is impossible of continuity and a more adequate supply is very necessary for these three Parishes.

The majority of the water supplies in the other villages is obtained from wells, which are usually found to be of the shallow type and must be looked upon with grave suspicion. Examinations of this type of well have been carried out and samples of water taken for analysis.

As the district is not favourably endowed with an abundant supply of water satisfactory for public supplies, a considerable amount of time must be spent in ensuring that the existing supplies are safe. However the public are apt to overlook the dangers of not boiling water when advised to do so, on the grounds that the water has been drunk for years by the same family without any harmful effects being observed.

New connections to the Council's public supply were made during the year, as follows :—

Barrowby	—
Claypole, Stubton and Fenton	3
Colsterworth	6

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Two Sewage Disposal Works in your area are far from satisfactory and are overloaded and not in proper working condition. Both require a thorough overhaul, and after the War larger works should be installed.

The numerous sewer dykes and septic tanks in the area have been cleaned out from time to time, although difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the necessary labour.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

No system of regular scavenging is in operation in your district, therefore the collection of salvage cannot be made with anything like 100% efficiency,

A great improvement in the salvage collection was made during the year and thanks are due to the many willing helpers.

Amongst the many voluntary helpers, the rural members of the Women's Voluntary Services, School Teachers, School Children and members of the Women's Institute have played an important part.

Special thanks are due to Mrs. D. Jacques, O.B.E., for her invaluable assistance and organisation.

One male and one female comprise your paid staff at the Salvage Depot.

The amount of salvage sold during the year is as follows :—

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Value £	s.	d.
Waste Paper	76	1	3	484	14	2
Bones	3	0	0	8	11	4
Textiles	1	18	2	26	0	10
Rubber		3	3		3	3
Bottles and Jars				2	9	4
Tins					18	2
				£522	17	1

Your sales for 1942 exceeded the 1941 figures by £200.

FOOD SUPPLY

The Ministry of Food central slaughter-house in the Borough of Grantham continues to deal with the whole of the meat required by the butchers in the rural area.

Inspections have been made from time to time of all the food shops in the district.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The reward scheme for catching rats has continued in operation during the year with success.

KNACKERS' YARDS

There are only two Knackers' Yards in the district and both yards were inspected at regular intervals and found to be maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

MILK SUPPLY.

358 persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, as Milk Producers, five new registrations being made during the year.

Three firms retail Pasteurised Milk in the district.

Inspections have been made during the year and the following defects were remedied after informal notice had been served :—

Drainage provided	3
Dairies and Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	21
Cowshed floors repaired	4
Cowsheds reconstructed	2
Accumulations of manure removed ...	5
Additional light and ventilation provided...	3

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES.

Number in force (Petroleum)	12
,, ,, ,, (Carbide)	3
New Petroleum Licences	3
New Carbide Licences	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections of the above were carried out as below :—

	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier Prosecuted
Factories	—	—	—
Workshops	11	—	—
Workplaces	—	—	—

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council own 178 houses in various parishes of the district, all of which have been maintained in proper order.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The following plans have been approved and buildings erected by private enterprise during the year :—

Houses erected or altered ...	2
Garages, Huts, etc	1
Cowsheds	1